1   CLAIMS

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3   What is claimed is:

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1.   A system for information exchange in a component exchange system, the component exchange system being capable of data communications with at least one seller processor and at least one buyer processor, the at least one seller processor being adaptable for communicating characteristic data regarding a plurality of components to the component exchange system, and the at least one buyer processor being adaptable for receiving the characteristic data from the component exchange system, comprising:

a receiving system for receiving the characteristic data from at least one of the at least one seller processor;

a converter for establishing a data standard for the characteristic data and converting the characteristic data into standardized characteristic data in accordance with the data standard; and

an extractor for presenting the standardized characteristic data to at least one of the at least one buyer processor.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the receiving system is capable of receiving the

2   characteristic data from at least one of the at least one buyer processor.

1   3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the converter is capable of establishing a set of

2   data format requirements and is capable of verifying that the characteristic data sufficiently

3   complies with the set of data format requirements.

1   4.   The system of claim 3, wherein the receiving system is capable of converting each

2   of the characteristic data that does not sufficiently comply with the data standard.

1   5.   The system of claim 1, wherein the data standard comprises a measurement

2   standard for the characteristic data.

1   6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the data standard is selectable.

1   7.   The system of claim 1, wherein the extractor is capable of presenting the

2   standardized characteristic data to at least one of the at least one seller processor.

1   8.   The system of claim 1, wherein the extractor is capable of presenting all of the

2   standardized characteristic data associated with at least one preselected component.

1   9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the extractor is capable of presenting all of the

2   standardized characteristic data associated with a preselected seller processor.

1   10.   A system for information exchange in a component exchange system, the

2   component exchange system being capable of data communications with at least one seller

3   processor and at least one buyer processor, the at least one seller processor being adaptable for

4   communicating characteristic data regarding a plurality of components to the component

5   exchange system, and the at least one buyer processor being adaptable for receiving the

6   characteristic data from the component exchange system, comprising:

7   a receiving system for receiving the characteristic data from at least one of the at least

8   one buyer processor;

9   a converter for establishing the data standard and for converting the characteristic data

10   into standardized characteristic data in accordance with the data standard, the converter being

11   capable of verifying that the characteristic data sufficiently complies with a set of data format

12   requirements, said data standard comprising a measurement standard for presenting the

13   characteristic data and being selectable; and

14   an extractor for presenting the standardized characteristic data to at least one of the at

15   least one buyer processor.

1   11.   A method for exchanging information in a component exchange system, the

2   component exchange system being capable of data communications with at least one seller

3   processor and at least one buyer processor, the at least one seller processor being adaptable for

4   communicating characteristic data regarding a plurality of components to the component

5   exchange system, and the at least one buyer processor being adaptable for receiving the

6   characteristic data from the component exchange system, comprising the steps of:

7   establishing a data standard for the characteristic data;

8   receiving the characteristic data from at least one of the at least one seller processor;

9   converting the characteristic data into standardized characteristic data in accordance with

10   the data standard; and

11   presenting the standardized characteristic data to at least one of the at least one buyer

12   processor.

1   12.   The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of verifying that the

2   characteristic data sufficiently complies with a set of data format requirements.

1   13.   The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of converting each of the

2   characteristic data that does not sufficiently comply with the data standard into the standardized

3   characteristic data.

1   14.   The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of providing a measurement

2   standard for generating the characteristic data.

1   15.   The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of selecting a data standard.

1   16.   The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting all of the

2   standardized characteristic data associated with at least one preselected component .

1   17.   The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting all of the

2   standardized characteristic data associated with a preselected seller processor.

1   18.   A method for exchanging information in a component exchange system, the

2   component exchange system being capable of data communications with at least one seller

3   processor and at least one buyer processor, the at least one seller processor being adaptable for

4   communicating characteristic data regarding a plurality of components to the component

5   exchange system, and the at least one buyer processor being adaptable for receiving the

6   characteristic data from the component exchange system, comprising the steps of:

7   establishing a data standard for the characteristic data;

8   receiving the characteristic data from at least one of the at least one buyer processor and

9   at least one of the at least one seller processor;

10   verifying that the characteristic data sufficiently complies with the data standard;

11   converting the characteristic data into standardized characteristic data in accordance with

12   the data standard, said data standard comprising a measurement standard for presenting the

13   characteristic data and being selectable; and

14   presenting the standardized characteristic data to at least one of the at least one buyer

15   processor and at least one of the at least one seller processor.